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7 in 10 Americans think Supreme Court justices put ideology over impartiality: AP-NORC poll

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and LINLEY SANDERS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A solid majority of Americans say Supreme Court justices are more likely to be guided by their own ideology rather than serving as neutral arbiters of government authority, a new poll finds, as the high court is poised to rule on major cases involving former President Donald Trump and other divisive issues. The survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 7 in 10 Americans think the high court's justices are more influenced by ideology, while only about 3 in 10 U.S. adults think the justices are more likely to provide an independent check on other branches of government by being fair and impartial.



The Supreme Court building is seen on Thursday, June 27, 2024, in Washington.

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7 in 10 Americans think Supreme Court justices put ideology over impartiality: AP-NORC poll

Continued from Front

The poll reflects the continued erosion of confidence in the Supreme Court, which enjoyed broader trust as recently as a decade ago. It underscores the challenge faced by the nine justices — six appointed by Republican presidents and three by Democrats — of being seen as something other than just another element of Washington's hyper-partisanship.

The justices are expected to decide soon whether Trump is immune from criminal charges over his efforts to overturn his 2020 reelection defeat, but the poll suggests that many Americans are already uneasy about the justices' ability to rule impartially.

"It's very political. There's no question about that," said Jeff Weddell, a 67-year-old automotive technology sales representative from Macomb County, in presidential swing-state Michigan. The court's decision-making is so polluted," said Weddell, a political independent who plans to vote for Trump in November. "No matter what they say on President Trump's immunity, this will be politically motivated."

Confidence in the Supreme Court remains low. The poll of 1,088 adults found that 4 in 10 U.S. adults say they have hardly any confidence in the people running the Supreme Court, in line with an AP-NORC poll from October. As recently as early 2022, before the high-profile ruling that overturned the constitutional right to abortion, an AP-NORC poll found that only around one-quarter of Americans lacked confidence in the justices.

And although the Supreme Court's conservative majority has handed down some historic victories for Republican policy priorities over the past few years, rank-and-file Republicans aren't giving the justices a ringing endorsement.

It's been two years since the court's ruling on abortion rights. Justices Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett — Trump nominees confirmed by a Repub-



Members of the Supreme Court sit for a group portrait at the Supreme Court building in Washington, Oct. 7, 2022. Bottom row, from left, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Justice Clarence Thomas, Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts, Justice Samuel Alito, and Justice Elena Kagan. Top row, from left, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, Justice Neil Gorsuch, Justice Brett Kavanaugh, and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Associated Press

lican Senate — were part of the majority that overturned the near-50-year abortion-rights precedent established in *Roe v. Wade*.

This year's term, with a dozen cases still undecided, has already seen some major rulings. Earlier in June, the Supreme Court unanimously preserved access to the pharmaceutical drug mifepristone, a medication used in nearly two-thirds of all abortions in the U.S. last year. The same week, the court struck down a Trump-era gun restriction, a ban on rapid-fire gun accessories known as bump stocks, a win for gun-rights advocates. Only about half of Republicans have a great deal or a moderate amount of confidence in the court's handling of important issues, including gun policy, abortion, elections and voting, and presidential power and immunity, according to the new poll.

"I don't have a lot of faith in the Supreme Court. And that's unfortunate because that's the final say-so, the fi-

nal check and balance on our three-branch government," said Matt Rogers, a 37-year-old Republican from Knoxville, Tennessee.

Other Republicans share that mistrust, although the court's current makeup is more conservative than any court in modern history. They are also split on whether the justices are more driven by personal ideology or impartiality, with about half of Republicans saying the justices are more likely to shape the law to fit their own ideology, and another half saying they are likelier to be an independent check on their co-equal branches.

"I think they are getting influenced and pressured by a lot of people and a lot of entities on the left," said Rogers, a health and wellness trainer who plans to vote for Trump a third time this year. "Let's be honest. It's anything to crucify Trump."

Some Republicans have less confidence in the court's handling of specific issues than others. The poll found, for instance, that about 6 in

10 Republican women have little to no confidence in the court's handling of presidential power and immunity, compared to 45% of Republican men.

Janette Majors, a Republican from Ridgefield, Washington, says it's only natural for a justice to reflect the ideology of the president who nominated them.

But episodes outside the Supreme Court chambers have made her less confident in the people running the court. "What you hear about Clarence Thomas, taking trips paid for by rich people, makes me think there are some individuals there that don't sound like I should trust them," Majors said, referring unprompted to reports that Thomas has for years received undisclosed expensive gifts, including travel, from GOP megadonor Harlan Crow.

Democrats and independents are even more skeptical of the court's neutrality, according to the poll.

About 8 in 10 Democrats — and about 7 in 10 inde-

pendents — say the justices are more likely to shape the law to fit their own ideology. A similar share has little or no confidence at all in the court's handling of abortion, gun policy and presidential power and immunity.

Michigan Democrat Andie Near noticed that the court seemed to become a political tool in 2016, when then-Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refused to allow hearings on Democratic President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland.

McConnell quickly allowed hearings after Trump nominated Gorsuch within 10 days of taking office in 2017. "I had thought the court, though maybe skewing left or right, was serving the whole body of the country," the 42-year-old museum registrar from Holland, Michigan, said. "That's when it brought to high relief that the Supreme Court is being used to skew the political environment we live in, and it's only gotten worse." □

Justice Department charges nearly 200 people in \$2.7 billion health care fraud schemes crackdown



Attorney General Merrick Garland speaks during a news conference at the Department of Justice headquarters in Washington, Thursday, June 27, 2024.

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 200 people have been charged in a sweeping nationwide crackdown on health care fraud schemes with false claims topping \$2.7 billion, the Justice Department said on Thursday. Attorney General Merrick Garland announced the charges against doctors, nurse practitioners and others across the U.S. accused of a variety of scams, including a \$900 million scheme in Arizona targeting dying patients.

"It does not matter if you are a trafficker in a drug cartel or a corporate executive or medical professional employed by a health care company, if you profit from the unlawful distribution of controlled substances, you will be held accountable," Garland said in a statement. In the Arizona case, prosecutors have accused two owners of wound care companies of accepting more than \$330 million in kickbacks as part of a scheme to fraudulently bill Medicare for amniotic wound grafts, which are dressings to help heal wounds.

Nurse practitioners were pressured to apply the wound grafts to elderly patients who didn't need them, including people in hospice care, the Justice Department said. Some patients died the

day they received the grafts or within days, court papers say.

In less than two years, more than \$900 million in bogus claims were submitted to Medicare for grafts that were used on fewer than 500 patients, prosecutors said.

The owners of the wound care companies, Alexandra Gehrke and Jeffrey King, were arrested this month at the Phoenix airport as they were boarding a flight to London, according to court papers urging a judge to keep them behind bars while they await trial. An attorney for Gehrke declined to comment, and a lawyer for King didn't immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press.

Authorities allege Gehrke and King, who got married this year, knew charges were coming and had been preparing to flee. At their home, authorities found a book titled "How To Disappear: Erase Your Digital Footprint, Leave False Trails, and Vanish Without a Trace," according to court papers. In one of their bags packed for their flight, there was a book titled "Criminal Law Handbook: Know Your Rights, Survive The System," the papers say. Gehrke and King lived lavishly off the scheme, prosecutors allege, citing in court papers luxury cars, a nearly \$6 million home and more than \$520,000 in gold bars,

coins and jewelry. Officials seized more than \$52 million from Gehrke's personal and business bank accounts after her arrest, prosecutors say. In total, 193 people were charged in a series of separate cases brought over about two weeks in the nationwide health care fraud sweep. Authorities seized more than \$230 million in cash, luxury cars and other assets. The Justice Department carries out these sweeping health care fraud efforts periodically with the goal of helping to deter other potential wrongdoers. In another Arizona case, one woman is accused of billing the state's Medicaid agency for substance abuse treatment services that didn't serve any real purpose or were never provided, prosecutors say.

Another case alleges a scheme in Florida to distribute misbranded HIV drugs. Prosecutors say drugs were bought on the black market and resold to unsuspecting pharmacies, which then provided the medications to patients.

In some cases, patients were given bottles that contained different drugs than the label showed. One patient ended up unconscious for 24 hours after taking what he was led to believe was his HIV medication but was actually an anti-psychotic drug, prosecutors say. □

Associated Press



Vivek Ramaswamy speaks at a news conference across the street from the Manhattan criminal court, Tuesday, May 14, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

Man charged with threatening to kill presidential candidates found dead as jury was deciding verdict

By STEVE LeBLANC and HOLLY RAMER
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — A New Hampshire man charged with threatening the lives of presidential candidates last year has been found dead while a jury was deciding his verdict, according to court filings Thursday. The jury began weighing the case against Tyler Anderson, 30, of Dover on Tuesday after a trial that began Monday. His lawyer did not immediately respond to email and phone messages seeking comment. A court filing said "the government has learned that the defendant is deceased." Prosecutors have moved to dismiss the indictment.

The U.S. Attorney's office did not name the candidates. When Anderson was arrested, a spokesperson for Republican candidate Vivek Ramaswamy said that texts were directed at his campaign. Anderson had told the FBI in an interview that he sent similar texts to "multiple other campaigns," according to a court document. Anderson was indicted by a federal grand jury in December on three counts of sending a threat using interstate commerce. Each charge provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, up to three years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Police in Concord, New Hampshire, were asked to help search for Anderson after he failed to show up for court and eventually located a car in a garage at Concord Hospital at about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, according to Deputy Chief John Thomas.

Officers detected a strong chemical smell coming from the car and called in a hazmat team. Anderson's body was removed from the car and pronounced dead. There were no weapons found. Thomas said no foul play is suspected at this time.

Anderson was arrested on Dec. 9 and was released Dec. 14. A federal judge set forth several conditions for his release, including that he avoid contact with any presidential candidate and their political campaigns. Anderson, who was receiving mental health treatment, was also ordered to take all of his prescribed medications.

According to court documents, Anderson had received a text message from Ramaswamy's campaign notifying him of a breakfast event in Portsmouth. The campaign staff got two text messages in response. One threatened to shoot the candidate in the head, and the other threatened to kill everyone at the event and desecrate their corpses. The charges say similar texts were sent to two different candidates before the Ramaswamy messages, on Nov. 22 and Dec. 6. □

News nonprofit sues ChatGPT maker OpenAI and Microsoft for 'exploitative' copyright infringement

By SARAH PARVINI and MATT O'BRIEN

AP Technology Writers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Center for Investigative Reporting said Thursday it has sued ChatGPT maker OpenAI and its closest business partner, Microsoft, marking a new front in the news industry's fight against unauthorized use of its content on artificial intelligence platforms.

The nonprofit, which produces Mother Jones and Reveal, said that OpenAI used its content without permission and without offering compensation, violating copyrights on the organization's journalism. The lawsuit, filed in a New York federal court, describes OpenAI's business as "built on the exploitation of copyrighted works" and focuses on how AI-generated summaries of articles threaten publishers.

"It's immensely dangerous," Monika Bauerlein, the nonprofit's CEO, told The Associated Press. "Our existence relies on users finding our work valuable and deciding to support it." Bauerlein said that "when people can no longer de-



Copies of Mother Jones are shown in a photo taken on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, in Providence, R.I.

velop that relationship with our work, when they no longer encounter Mother Jones or Reveal, then their relationship is with the AI tool."

That, she said, could "cut the entire foundation of our existence as an independent newsroom out from under us" while also threatening the future of other news organizations.

OpenAI and Microsoft didn't immediately respond to requests for comment Thursday.

The lawsuit is the latest against OpenAI and Microsoft to land at Manhattan's federal court, where the companies are already battling a series of other copyright lawsuits from The New York Times, other media outlets and bestsell-

ing authors such as John Grisham, Jodi Picoult and George R.R. Martin. The companies also face a separate case in San Francisco's federal court brought by authors including comedian Sarah Silverman. Some news organizations have chosen to collaborate rather than fight with OpenAI by signing deals to get compensated for

sharing news content that can be used to train its AI systems. The latest to do so is Time, which announced Thursday that OpenAI will get access to its "extensive archives from the last 101 years."

OpenAI and other major AI developers don't typically disclose their data sources but have argued that taking troves of publicly accessible online text, images and other media to train their AI systems is protected by the "fair use" doctrine of American copyright law. CIR's lawsuit says a dataset that OpenAI has acknowledged using to build an earlier version of its chatbot technology contained thousands of links to the website of Mother Jones, a 48-year-old print magazine that's been publishing online since 1993. But the text used for AI training was usually missing information about a story's author, title or copyright notice.

Last summer, more than 4,000 writers signed a letter to the CEOs of OpenAI and other tech companies accusing them of exploitative practices in building chatbots. □

Associated Press

Giant sinkhole swallows the center of a soccer field built on top of a limestone mine

ALTON, Ill. (AP) — A giant sinkhole has swallowed the center of a soccer complex that was built over an operating limestone mine in southern Illinois, taking down a large light pole and leaving a gaping chasm where squads of kids often play. But no injuries were reported after the sinkhole opened Wednesday morning.

"No one was on the field at the time and no one was hurt, and that's the most important thing," Alton Mayor David Goins told The (Alton) Telegraph.

Security video that captured the hole's sudden formation shows a soccer field light pole disappearing into the ground, along

with benches and artificial turf at the city's Gordon Moore Park.

The hole is estimated to be at least 100 feet (30.5 meters) wide and up to 50 feet

(15.2 meters) deep, said Michael Haynes, the city's parks and recreation director.

"It was surreal. Kind of like a movie where the ground

just falls out from underneath you," Haynes told KMOV-TV.

The park and roads around it are now closed indefinitely.

New Frontier Materials Bluff City said the sinkhole resulted from "surface subsidence" at its underground mine in city, located about 25 miles (40 kilometers) north of St. Louis along the Mississippi River.

The collapse was reported to the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration, as required, company spokesman Matt Barkett said. He told The Associated Press the limestone mine is located about 170 feet (52 meters) below ground and it's his understanding

that it runs under the city park where the sinkhole appeared.

"The impacted area has been secured and will remain off limits for the foreseeable future while inspectors and experts examine the mine and conduct repairs," Barkett said in a statement. "We will work with the city to remediate this issue as quickly and safely as possible to ensure minimal impact on the community."

Haynes said he doesn't know how the sinkhole will be fixed but that engineers and geologists will most likely be involved in determining the stability of the ground and surrounding areas. □



This photo provided by the City of Alton, Ill., shows security video of a sinkhole that opened in the middle of a soccer field on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 in Alton, Ill.

Associated Press

Ethnic Greek imprisoned in Albania hopes his election to European Parliament will boost rule of law

By NICHOLAS PAPHITIS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — An Albanian prison cell wouldn't rank high among choice spots to run a successful campaign for election to the European Parliament.

Fredis Beleris, a member of Albania's ethnic Greek minority, had no choice. Last year, he was elected mayor of a town in southern Albania a candidate to join the European Union but lost his office and is now serving a two-year sentence for vote-buying in that election.

The case soured relations between the Balkan neighbors and led to the dual Greek-Albanian citizen's election on June 9 to represent EU member Greece in the European Parliament. He ran on the ticket of Greece's governing center-right party. "I know (my election) will help put a spotlight on a major problem Albania faces, which is the rule of law," Beleris told The Associated Press in a phone interview Thursday from prison. "Here, the judiciary is the long arm of politics," he added. "I think these problems must be brought to the fore — lack of respect for the Greek ethnic minority's rights, such as the right to property ... and to be governed by the people it elects." Beleris' election isn't unique. An Italian leftwing activist held in pretrial detention



Fredis Beleris looks on as Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visits to the ethnic Greek minority of Albania, in Himare, Albania, on Dec. 22, 2022.

Associated Press

in EU member Hungary was released after her election to the European Parliament on an Italian party's ballot. Members of the legislature enjoy substantial legal immunity from prosecution within the 27-state EU, even over alleged crimes committed before their election. But Albania is not an EU member, and unlike Beleris, the new Italian member of the European Parliament had not been convicted in court. Athens described Beleris' detention and trial as politically motivated and implied Albania's prospects of join-

ing the EU would suffer. The case is complicated by fractious Balkan politics, minority rights and property disputes on a prime coastal stretch of what's marketed as the Albanian Riviera, the top tourist destination in the country. Some 10 million tourists visited the small country last year, contributing about a fifth of the economy.

"I had no intention of entering politics in Greece, it was because of the need to highlight this huge problem," Beleris said. "Anybody who knows me knows for sure that I would prefer to have been

mayor."

Belers, 51, was arrested two days before the May 14, 2023 municipal elections in Himare, on the Albanian Riviera, 220 kilometers (140 miles) southwest of the capital, Tirana. He was charged with offering some 40,000 Albanian leks (\$390) to buy eight votes.

He won with a 19-vote lead, backed by the ethnic Greek minority party and others opposing Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama's governing Socialists. But he never took office, being detained until his court conviction in March.

An appeals court upheld the ruling on Tuesday.

Belers denies the charges, claiming that Rama targeted him to keep control of Himare, and that judges ignored evidence in his favor. Albanian officials strongly reject his claims, citing the independence of the judiciary. Judicial corruption has long plagued post-communist Albania. The system recently underwent deep reforms, following EU and U.S. pressure to root out bribery and ensure judges are independent from politics. In March, Albanian officials arrested Belers' main rival Jorgo Goro, who was appointed acting Himare mayor after the vote-buying case. Goro was charged with allegedly faking documents to obtain local land for an ex-lawmaker planning a tourist resort.

Belers said he believes that at the heart of his case are "huge financial interests as far as tourist development is concerned."

"But it's also that the Albanian prime minister doesn't want the local (ethnic) Greek population to share in that prosperity," he said. "That's a direct breach of our human and minority rights."

Relations between Greece and Albania have been at times uneasy, largely over minority rights and the sizeable Albanian migrant community in Greece. □

Indonesia detains 103 foreigners in a raid in Bali involving suspected cybercrime

By FIRDIA LISNAWATI and

EDNA TARIGAN

Associated Press

DENPASAR, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian immigration authorities have detained 103 foreign nationals after a raid at a villa on the resort island of Bali, officials said Thursday.

Those arrested, including Taiwanese, Chinese and Malaysians, were accused of misusing their visas and residence permits, along with possible cybercrimes. Immigration authorities said they conducted the raid on Wednesday at a villa in Kuku village in Tabanan dis-

trict and detained 91 men and 12 women. Computers and cellphones were also seized, they said.

"They are suspected of not having documents and misuse of immigration permits. Currently, the possibility of cybercrime is being investigated based on the number of computers and cellphones found at the scene," Silmy Karim, the director general of immigration, said in a statement Thursday.

Authorities distributed photos showing dozens of detainees lying on their stomachs next to a swimming

pool and the three-story villa.

All are currently being held at a detention center in Denpasar, Bali, officials said.

Authorities said they are investigating whether the group might have ties to international syndicates.

Indonesia's Directorate General of Immigration plans to carry out another joint operation to monitor foreign nationals in Bali. It aims to ensure that foreigners are staying on the island in accordance with regulations and to maintain order and security. □



In this photo released by the Directorate General of Immigration of Indonesia's Justice and Human Rights Ministry (Ditjen Imigrasi), foreign nationals from China, Taiwan and Malaysia who are detained on allegations of conducting cybercrime and visa violations are lined up on the ground following a raid on a villa in Tabanan, Bali, Indonesia, Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

Associated Press

After failed coup attempt, many Bolivians rally behind president, though some are wary

By **PAOLA FLORES** and **ISABEL DEBRE**

Associated Press

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Supporters of Bolivia's president rallied outside his palace on Thursday after a failed coup attempt a day earlier, giving some political breathing room to the embattled leader of this economically troubled country as they chanted pro-democracy slogans.

The South American nation of 12 million watched in shock and bewilderment Wednesday as military forces appeared to turn on the government of President Luis Arce, seizing control of the capital's main square with armored vehicles, crashing a tank into the presidential palace and unleashing tear gas on protesters. Three hours later, the army general who led the attempted coup was in custody.

On Thursday, riot police guarded the palace doors and Arce who has struggled to manage the country's shortages of foreign currency and fuel condemned the now-ousted Bolivian army chief, Gen. Juan José Zúñiga.

Analysts say that the surge of public support for Arce, even if fleeting, provides him with a much-needed reprieve from the country's economic quagmire and political turmoil. The president is locked in a deepening rivalry with the popular former President Evo Morales, his erstwhile ally who has threatened to challenge Arce in 2025 primaries. "The president's management has been very bad, there are no dollars, there is no petrol," said La Paz-based political analyst Paul Coca. "Yesterday's military move is going to help his image a bit, but it's no solution."

Some protesters gathered outside the police station where the former army general was being detained, shouting that he should go to jail. "It's a shame what Zúñiga did," said 47-year-old Dora Quispe, one of the demonstrators. "We are in a democracy, not a dictatorship."

Before his arrest late Wednesday, Zúñiga alleged



Bolivian police hold the detained Juan Jose Zuniga, former general commander of the Army, in La Paz, Bolivia, Wednesday, June 26, 2024.

without providing evidence that Arce had ordered the general to carry out the coup attempt in a ruse to boost the president's popularity. That fueled a frenzy of speculation about what really happened, and opposition senators and government critics echoed the accusations, calling the mutiny a "self-coup" a claim strongly denied by Arce's government.

In La Paz's main Plaza Murillo, supporters addressed Arce, yelling "Lucho, you are not alone!" as fireworks exploded overhead. Lucho, a common nickname for Luis, also means "fight" in Spanish. Some Bolivians said they believed Gen. Zúñiga's allegations on national TV that the coup attempt was a hoax. "They are playing with the intelligence of the people, because nobody believes that it was a real coup," said 48-year-old lawyer Evaristo Mamani.

Lawmakers and former officials also bolstered the allegations. "This has been a setup," said Carlos Romero, a former official in the Morales government. "Zúñiga followed the script as he was ordered."

Soon after the military action was underway, it became clear that any attempted takeover had no meaningful political support. The rebellion ended bloodlessly

by the end of the business day. Arce named a new army commander, who immediately ordered troops to retreat.

"Here we are, firm, in the presidential palace, to confront any coup attempt," Arce said after facing down Zúñiga. Hundreds of the president's supporters surged into streets surrounding the palace Wednesday night, singing the national anthem and cheering for Arce.

Authorities swiftly arrested Zúñiga as his soldiers retreated from central La Paz.

The U.S. deputy secretary of state for management, Rich Verma, condemned Zúñiga's actions and speaking in Paraguay on Thursday noted that "democracy remains fragile in our hemisphere." The short-lived mutiny followed months of mounting tensions between Arce and ex-President Morales, Bolivia's first Indigenous president. Morales has staged a dramatic political comeback since mass protests and a deadly crackdown prompted him to resign and flee in 2019 a military-backed ouster that his supporters decry as a coup.

Morales has vowed to run against Arce in 2025 elections despite a constitutional court ruling that said he was ineligible because he had already served. The possibility

of Morales running again has rattled Arce, whose popularity has plunged as the country's foreign currency reserves dwindle, its natural gas exports plummet and its currency peg to the U.S. dollar collapses.

The cash crunch has ramped up pressure on Arce to scrap food and fuel subsidies that have put a strain on state finances, a combustible move ahead of elections. Defense Minister Edmundo Novillo said Wednesday's turmoil had its roots in a private meeting Tuesday in which Arce dismissed Zúñiga over the army chief's threats to arrest Morales if he proceeded to join the 2025 race.

Arce has also denied the legitimacy of Morales' presidential bid.

In their meeting, Zúñiga gave officials no indication he was preparing to seize power, Novillo said.

"He admitted that he had committed some excesses," he said of Zúñiga. "We said goodbye in the most friendly way, with hugs. Zúñiga said that he would always be at the side of the president." Mere hours later, panic gripped the capital of La Paz. Tailed by armored vehicles and supporters, Zúñiga burst into government headquarters and declared the armed forces sought "to restore Bolivia's democracy."

The influx of soldiers sent Bolivians into a frenzy, thronging ATMs, queuing outside gas stations and ransacking grocery stores. By one count, Bolivia has had more than 190 coup attempts and revolutions since its 1825 independence.

The country's fragmented opposition rejected the coup before it was clear it had failed. Former interim President Jeanine Áñez, detained for her role in Morales' 2019 ouster, said that soldiers sought to "destroy the constitutional order," but appealed to both Arce and Morales not to run in the 2025 elections.

Santa Cruz Gov. Luis Fernando Camacho, also detained for allegedly orchestrating a coup in 2019, demanded answers from Arce's government on Thursday.

"Was it a media spectacle put on by the government itself, as General Zúñiga says? Was it just some military madness? Was it simply another example of lack of control?" he wrote on social media platform X.

Zúñiga's answer came as a shock, telling reporters that Arce had asked him directly to storm the palace and bring armored vehicles into downtown La Paz.

"The president told me: 'The situation is very screwed up, very critical. It is necessary to prepare something to raise my popularity,'" Zúñiga alleged the Bolivian leader told him.

Bolivian officials have denied Zúñiga's claims, insisting the general was lying to justify his actions. Prosecutors said they'd seek the maximum sentence of 15 to 20 years in prison for Zúñiga on charges of "attacking the constitution."

Political experts struggling to comprehend the reasons behind Wednesday's turmoil.

"This is the weirdest coup attempt I have ever seen," said Kathryn Ledebur, director of the Andean Information Network, a Bolivia-based research group. "Bolivia's democracy remains very fragile, and definitely a great deal more fragile today than it was yesterday." □

Ministry of Nature reminds that the use of plastic balloons in the open air is prohibited



Through a publication, the Ministry of Nature wants to remind all citizens and visitors that since 2019, the use of plastic balloons in the open air is not allowed. It is also important to inform that they cause a negative impact on the environment.

The Ministry of Nature reminds all citizens that since December 2019, the use of balloons in the open air, meaning outside, is not permitted. The Environmentally Harmful Products Ordinance specifically names plastic balloons and confetti. Note has been taken that this has not

been considered during the secondary school graduation season and a soccer championship celebration.

Plastic balloons can easily cause negative impacts on our environment because:

- They can cause serious harm to our animals, both on land and in water, as they can mistake them for food. This can cause them significant harm and even death.
- They contribute to pollution on land and in the sea. The wind can carry them over long dis-

tances and bring them into our world and beaches.

- They release harmful chemicals during their decomposition process. This can affect the quality of our soil and water through contamination.
- The Ministry of Nature urges the entire population of Aruba to stop using plastic balloons in the open air so we can take care of our environment. The responsibility to safeguard our nature falls on all of us who live on this island, not just a few.

Similarly, it should be noted that the use of helium balloons also represents a danger given the various incidents that have occurred with power lines due to the use of these balloons. For this reason, ELMAR N.V. sent a message to the people of Aruba in late May to raise awareness that helium balloons are made of aluminum material. Aluminum is a conductive metal, and when these balloons come into contact with power lines, they can cause a short circuit. For this reason, both the Ministry of



Nature and the state company ELMAR N.V. are calling on the community to, when using balloons or plastic balloons, not let them fly away considering the dangers they can cause to the environment, animals, and even the community itself. □

The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various



renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its

official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another

expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still

reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors!

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers. □





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Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!




(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!


These “coconut stands” can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and

of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin
- Bushiribana Beach (Near the Ling & Song Supermarket) ☐



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Rotary Club of Aruba Beautifies YMCA Dakota with "Hands-On" Project

Recently, the Rotary Club of Aruba joined hands in a "Hands-On" project at YMCA Dakota to beautify the entrance and clean the yard. This way, the children who attend this YMCA center can enjoy a cleaner and more attractive establishment. At the entrance of the building, volunteers

from the Rotary Club of Aruba cut the grass, installed ground cover, and placed gravel. In the back yard, they cut the grass and did a thorough cleaning.

Together with Rotary members and friends of the Club, the work was completed in record time, thus beau-



tifying the entrance of the YMCA. With this "Hands-On" project, the Rotary Club of Aruba concludes another successful Rotary year under the leadership of President Luis Oduber. Additionally, outgoing President Luis Oduber, along

with all the members of the Rotary Club of Aruba, wishes to thank the businesses, commerce, and the community in general for once again contributing during this Rotary year

2023-2024. With this support, the Rotary Club of Aruba has provided financial assistance to various institutions, enabling them to help the most vulnerable in our community. □



The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.



Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that

gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa & goldmineranch.com.

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

(Oranjestad)—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Pineapple

Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drank after an operation on the ovaries or uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

When the fruit is unripe and green,



this can be used to stimulate menstruation flow in women. This also stimulates the passing kidney stones. When ripe, the fruit can be used for poisoning in the gut and can help treat rheumatic diseases, like arthritis.

However, breastfeeding women who cannot produce much milk are advised not to consume too pineapple, and people with acid reflux are recommended to not consume any pineapple at all.

Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a "shalup" (porridge) for stomach pain or when you're feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy

to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis. □

*warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.

*kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen.

Episode 137 - New Year! Dande "Ay Nobe"!

Aruba's traditional New Year's celebration. We do not know exactly when the rhythm of Dande arose in Aruba, it is estimated that it was around the year of 1880 that it really start to be heard all over the island

From the stories that have been passed down through generations we know that there is a supposition that the Dande was influenced by Arubans returning from Cuba and coinciding with the times when the Aruban people traveled to the island to work in the fields. The truth is that this particular rhythm does not exist anywhere else in the world.

The word Dande derives from "dandare" which means to go from one place to another. As for the expression "Ay nobe" it would be the result of the: Año Nuevo (New Year) of the Spanish language since there is no word that in our Papiamentu language has a relationship with this expression.

The custom indicates that immediately after the clocks struck 12:00 pm and the New

Year was welcomed, the musical group passed house to house singing to the rhythm of giving and with the song spreading good wishes to the inhabitants. The musical group consisted of a drummer, a Wiri player, and a singer. Over the years, instruments such as the "cuarta", guitar, the mandolin, accordion and even the violin were incorporated. Many times, others on the back of a donkeys, went to visit relatives first, infecting each home with joy and good wishes for the year that has just begun, then continued through the houses of friends and acquaintances.

As musicians were given great respect, the musical group would play at the limits of the houses they visited, just at the entrance, or in the front yard. Now if the owners of any particular house invited them to come in, they will continue playing inside each home. If the owner of the house did not want to receive them, they did not insist and went to the next house.

When the owner of the



house gave his approval for the group to enter, the singer, as a sign of respect for the house and the family, would take off his hat. In this time there is a belief that the purpose of removing the hat was to receive money which is completely wrong.

The custom indicates that the singer begins to sing to the owner of the house, then to the lady and successive-

ly to the children even the youngest.

We must emphasize that the Dande rhythm, despite being written in six eight just like the tomb rhythm, has its original rhythm that is given by its own instruments, as in these times the bass that gives it its original touch. The visits of the Dande group began with the New Year and lasted until January 6, the day in

which the Catholic Church celebrates the feast of the "Dia di Tres Rey" (Three Wise Men of the East).

We propose you one social encounter & give you more reasons to love Aruba! This unforgettable adventure gets you into a real Aruba's home where you can capture your destination in both a memorable and immersive way. Visit us, mention this column and take home a native gift! Appointment is required: etnianaativa03@gmail.com or WhatsApp at 297 592 2702 for an exclusive and insiders' experience. □



Article by: Etnia Nativa

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Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 43 Annex
1 Lose it
6 Abodes girl, often
11 Curaçao's neighbor
12 In the area
13 Bury
14 September sign
15 Letter after sigma
16 Small loud-speaker
18 Letter after zeta
19 Sermon topic
20 One or more
21 Depend
23 Stately
25 Dandy
27 Little piggy
28 Celtic priest
30 Colony members
33 Floral garland
34 Astronaut Grissom
36 Important age
37 Ace
39 Impair
40 Camp craft
41 Cake cover

DOWN

- 1 Spat
2 Highly decorative
3 Shared acquaintances
4 Presidential
5 Pub pastime
6 Poor person
7 Theater award
8 The Hatfields and the McCoy's, e.g.
9 Playwright O'Neill
10 Yarn
17 Triumph
22 "Hey there!"
24 Frilly wrap
26 Sties
28 Reply to "Gracias"
29 Twosome
31 Stupor
32 Privates' bosses
33 Union chapter
35 Police trap
38 Flue filth
42 Langley org.

G	A	M	E	S	C	A	L	E
U	S	E	R	B	U	L	L	E
M	A	G	I	A	M	E	L	I
S	P	A	C	E	B	A	R	
			S	N	A	C	K	B
I	N	D	O	O	R			E
D	A	R	N	S		S	H	E
O	V	A			A	W	A	R
L	E	M	O	N	B	A	R	
			S	O	U	N	D	B
E	L	I	C	I	T		T	A
M	O	R	A	S		O	R	E
S	P	A	R	E		P	E	L

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15				16	17				
18				19				20	
21			22		23		24		
	25		26		27				
	28				29		30		31
33			34		35		36		
37			38				39		
40					41	42			
43					44				
45					46				

4-5

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-5 CRYPTOQUOTE

DBNP M GUYDP IYWNF ZPKY
M OMUMGN, BN VYNFP'K
LNGYIN M CZPA. KBN OMUMGN
LNGYINF M GZQGEF. — KEQCZFB
OQYWNQL

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: INFORMATION IS LIGHT. INFORMATION, IN ITSELF, ABOUT ANYTHING, IS LIGHT. — TOM STOPPARD

Cruise ship Schedule: July 01 - July 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	04	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	10	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	17	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	30	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

List of threatened species grows by 1,000, but conservation efforts bring hope for some animals



An Iberian lynx is visible in Doñana National Park, in Aznalcazar, Spain on Sept. 28, 2018.

Associated Press

By **TAIWO ADEBAYO**
Associated Press

Over 45,000 species are now threatened with extinction 1,000 more than last year according to an international conservation organization that blames pressures from climate change, invasive species and human activity such as illicit trade and infrastructural expansion. The International Union for Conservation of Nature released its latest Red List of Threatened Species on Thursday. Now in its 60th year, the list sounds the alarm about animals and plants at risk of extinction, but it also highlights conservation success stories such as the Iberian lynx. The list now includes 163,040 species, an increase of about 6,000 from last year. Copiapoa cacti, native to Chile's Atacama coastal desert, the Bornean elephant and the

Gran Canaria giant lizard are among the threatened species, IUCN revealed. Social media trend among extinction drivers Copiapoa cacti have long been coveted as decorative plants, driving an illegal trade that has been amplified by social media where enthusiasts and traders showcase and sell the cacti. A staggering 82% of the species is now at risk of extinction, a significant jump from 55% in 2013, the report said. IUCN said that the decline is due to the surge in demand for the Chilean cacti in Europe and Asia as orna-

mental species. The smugglers and poachers facilitating the trade, the organization said, have gained increased accessibility to the plants' habitat due to roads and housing expansion in the Atacama area. "It is easy to distinguish if copiapoa cacti have been poached or grown in a greenhouse," said Pablo Guerrero, a member of the IUCN's group on the plants. "Poached copiapoa have a grey tone and are coated in a dusty-looking bloom that protects the plants in one of the driest deserts on Earth, whereas cultivated plants appear

greener."

The 2024 update also highlights the Asian elephant in Borneo as an endangered species. It is estimated that only about 1,000 Bornean elephants remain in the wild, according to IUCN analysis.

The population has decreased over the past 75 years primarily due to extensive logging of Borneo's forests, destroying much of the elephants' habitat. Conflicts with humans, habitat loss due to agriculture and timber plantations, mining and infrastructure development, poaching, exposure to agrochemicals, and vehicle collisions also threaten the species, the IUCN said.

The list also revealed the "staggering" decline of endemic reptiles the giant lizard and skink on the Canary Islands and Ibiza due to predation by the invasive snakes. □



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Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores

Richard Brooks

Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22

T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

@arubatoday

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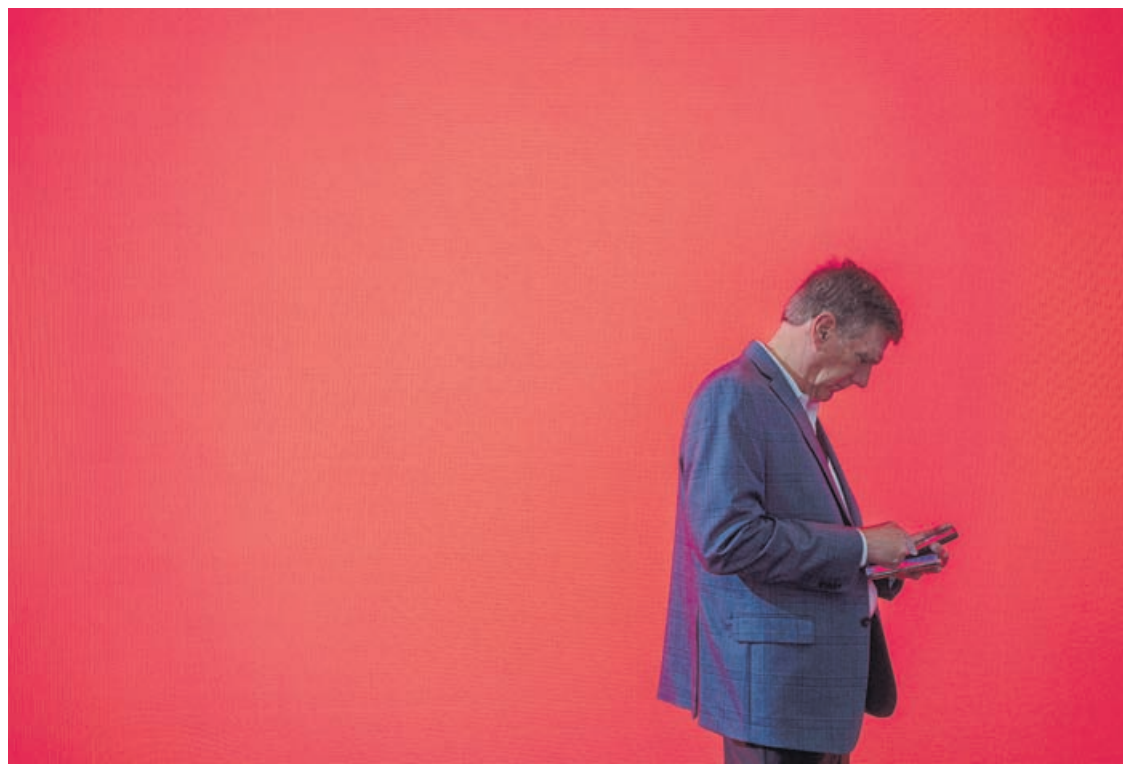


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One Tech Tip: What to do when you have too many passwords to remember

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Everyone has too many passwords. The credentials we need to remember to navigate online life keep multiplying, not just for frequently used email, banking, social media, Netflix and Spotify logins, but also, say, the little-known e-commerce site you're not sure you'll buy from again. According to some unscientific studies, the average person has hundreds of passwords. That's a lot to keep track of. You might be tempted to recycle them, but it's one of the bad password habits that cybersecurity experts warn against. Instead, use a password manager. They've been around for a while and can be useful tools to keep on top of your credentials. But they can also be intimidating for those who aren't tech-savvy. Here's a guide on how to use them: Why should I use a password manager? Many people just use the same password for all their online accounts, mainly because it's the most convenient thing to do. Don't! If your credentials are caught in a cyber breach, the hackers could try using the stolen passwords to get into other services. Other no-nos: Using eas-



A visitor looks at his phone at the Mobile World Congress 2024 in Barcelona, Spain, Feb. 27, 2024. Associated Press

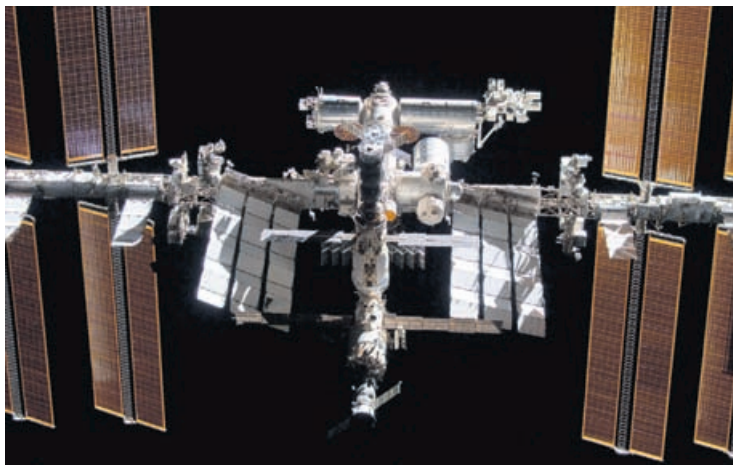
ily guessed information like birthdays, names of family members, favorite sports teams, or simple phrases like abc123. The best strategy, experts say, is to use a different password for each account, the longer and more complex the better, backed up by two-factor authentication where possible. But it's impossible to remember all those various codes. So let a password manager do the job. How does a password manager work? The basic concept is simple: Your passwords are stored

securely in a digital vault. When you need to access an online service, it auto-fills the login and password fields. The only thing you'll need to remember is a single password to open the password manager. Most password managers have a smartphone app that works with mobile browsers and other apps and can be opened with a thumbprint or facial ID scan. If you're using a computer, you can also log in to your password vault through a browser plug-in or by going to a website. A good password man-

ager should also be able to generate complex passwords with letters, numbers and symbols, for whenever you're setting up a new account. And it should also recognize that you're signing into an online service for the first time and ask if you want to save the credentials you've entered. Password managers can also help you avoid falling prey to phishing scams. Those deceptive emails from fraudsters trying to trick you into clicking a link to a phony website designed to harvest login details? A password manager won't automati-

cally fill in the details if the web address doesn't match the one linked to the saved password. Many also support passkeys, a new technology that companies like Google have been rolling out as a safer alternative to passwords. How do I choose the best one to use? There are dozens of password managers on the market, so it can be hard to figure out what's best for you. Better-known platforms include 1Password, Bitwarden, Dashlane, Bitdefender, Nordpass, Keeper and Keepass. Check out the many tech review websites that have conducted in-depth testing and compiled rankings of the most popular services. If you want to nerd out, users on Reddit have drawn up spreadsheets with side-by-side comparisons. Britain's National Cyber Security Centre has a buyer's guide. Most services have free and paid versions. The paid options typically cost a few dollars a month while the free offerings tend to have restrictions like allowing only one device to be logged in at a time or limiting the number of passwords you can store. If cost is a factor, Bitwarden's free service gets top marks from reviewers, though it's less polished and not as immediately intuitive to use. □

NASA taps Elon Musk's SpaceX to bring International Space Station out of orbit in a few more years



This photo provided by NASA shows the International Space Station from the SpaceX Crew Dragon Endeavour during a fly around of the orbiting lab that took place following its undocking from the Harmony module's space-facing port, Nov. 8, 2021.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — NASA has awarded SpaceX an \$843 million contract to build the vehicle that will bring the International Space Station out of its longtime orbit of Earth when its operating lifespan ends in a few more years.

SpaceX, a privately held company controlled by technology mogul Elon Musk, will build the vehicle that will bring down the space station, but NASA will still oversee the eventual mission.

The International Space Station, launched in 1998, is expected to be needed to be brought out of orbit by 2030. The station is operated by space agencies from the U.S., Europe, Japan, Canada and Russia. All the countries involved have pledged to operate the station until 2030 except Russia, which has only committed to participate until 2028.

Crews of astronauts have been occupying the space station since 2000.

"The orbital laboratory remains a blueprint for science, exploration, and partnerships in space for the benefit of all," said Ken Bowersox, NASA's associate administrator for space operations mission directorate.

The contract is another vote of confidence in the technological prowess of SpaceX, a rocket maker based in Hawthorne, California, that Musk founded in 2002 to explore new frontiers in space. Musk, 52, then became the driving force behind in Tesla, the electric car maker that accounts for most of his estimated fortune of \$220 billion. □

Age is just a number in drag racing, where older drivers like John Force excel at high speed

By PETE IACOBELLI
AP Sports Writer

Tony Schumacher has a ready answer when fans wonder how much longer the 54-year-old, three-time world champion will keep climbing drag racing's ladder in the National Hot Rod Association.

"About 10 years," Schumacher said. "That's what I've told them for the past 20 years."

Age is just a number in drag racing, where cars hurtle down the track for a quarter-mile at more than 300 mph (483 kph), a blur of speed and roaring noise that is over in a few seconds before a parachute helps bring the vehicles to a stop. Such terrifying speeds are far above those seen in Formula 1, NASCAR and IndyCar, but those races last far longer. That is part of the reason drivers in their 70s and even 80s can rely on their talent and experience to safely pilot a Top Fuel or Funny Car for a few moments and keep on winning long after traditional drivers on ovals and road courses call it a career.

"In our sport, unlike many of them, it's mental," Schumacher explained. "I feel like I got better with age."

He is not alone. Ron Capps, 59, has won at least one



Funny Car driver John Force looks to get back on track for the last day of qualifying at the NHRA Kansas Nationals at Heartland Park, May 21, 2016, in Topeka Kansas.

Associated Press

Funny Car event for 15 straight years starting in 2009. Antron Brown, 48, has 75 career Top Fuel victories, winning titles in 2012, 2015 and 2016. Matt Hagan, 41, picked up his 50th Funny Car victory in April and the reigning champ was nominated as "Best Driver" for an ESPY.

Of course, all-time great John Force, 75, has won 157 times in a career that began in 1978 — 46 years ago.

Force was involved in a fiery crash last week at an event in Virginia. He was talkative with rescue workers before going to a hospital, where he remains under observation.

Force is now in a neurological intensive care unit to focus on a head injury, a switch viewed as a "welcome positive" in a recovery his team will take a long time. As in all racing series, safety improvements have been made over the years

in drag racing, from the roll cages and padding within the chassis to the firesuits, helmets and restraints for the drivers. Deaths in the NHRA are rare but not unheard of.

Brown, competing this week in Norwalk, Ohio, said accidents like Force's are in the back of every racer's mind. The successful ones know how to block out the worries while focusing on their driving skills. A Top Fuel or Funny Car has

somewhere around 11,000 horsepower — more than 10 times that seen in an F1 car, for example.

The love of the sport, Brown believes, is the fuel to keep going in a sport where engines can burst into flames or a tiny wobble can send a car airborne or hurtling into a wall.

"I think this drag racing, the people that are in the sport, they're consumed by it, I think," he said.

That had to be the case for Chris Karamesines, the "Golden Greek," who advanced in a Top Fuel event at age 86 with a then-record run of 305 mph (491 kph). Karamesines retired in 2020 with granddaughter Krista Baldwin taking over his ride.

"It's been 63 years of fun, and I have loved every minute of it," Karamesines said at his retirement.

Irvin Johns made history at age 79 last year when he won the Super Stock title at the Route 66 Nationals in Joliet, Illinois, to become the NHRA's oldest national event winner.

"Seriously, I feel like you can do this for as long as you like," said Johns, who stepped away from racing for more than 30 years as he built a towing business in Louisville, Kentucky. □

Steve Gleason to receive Arthur Ashe Courage Award at The ESPYS for his work on ALS awareness

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Retired NFL safety Steve Gleason, who has been fighting ALS since 2011, will receive the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage at The ESPYS on July 11.

The 47-year-old Gleason spent eight years in the NFL before retiring in 2008. Three years later, he went public with his diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Gleason established his nonprofit, Team Gleason, to help people with ALS live purposeful lives by providing programming and support services. It successfully lobbied for The Steve Gleason

Act, which ensures the availability of life-sustaining communication devices in the U.S.

"Over the past 13 years, I've been documenting our journey with ALS. My aim has always been to see if we can discover peace, freedom, and a love of life, even in the midst of extreme adversity," Gleason said in a statement Thursday.

"Being recognized at The 2024 ESPYS is not just an honor, but a powerful platform to further help and serve others."

In 2019, Gleason was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal for his contri-

butions to ALS awareness. Earlier this year, he released his memoir.

During his eight years with the New Orleans Saints, Gleason's memorable punt block in the team's first game back after Hurricane Katrina became a symbol of recovery in the city.

The Ashe award is given to a sports person who has made a difference beyond the field of play by fighting for what they believe in. Among the past recipients are the USA Gymnastics sexual abuse survivors, Bill Russell, Kevin Love, Maya Moore, Vitali Klitschko and the U.S. women's national soccer team. □



Former NFL football player and ALS patient Steve Gleason, second from right, and Pearl Jam guitarist Mike McCready, left, participate in ceremonies in commemoration of Lou Gehrig Day before a baseball game between the Seattle Mariners and the Los Angeles Angels, Sunday, June 2, 2024, in Seattle.

Associated Press



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9:00PM - 11:00PM
Selecting 6 winners of a \$1,000 each in cash every hour.

11:30PM
Selecting one finalist for the final drawing plus \$1,500 cash.

12:00AM
Selecting 9 winners of \$500 each in slot credit.





Ohtani contemplating the Home Run Derby amid record-breaking RBI streak with the Dodgers

By **JAY COHEN**
AP Baseball Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Shohei Ohtani is rolling along for the Los Angeles Dodgers at the moment.

When it comes to the Home Run Derby, well, stay tuned. Ohtani hit a leadoff drive against the Chicago White Sox for the second straight night on Wednesday, extending his RBI streak to a franchise-record 10 games. The two-time AL MVP is batting .310 (27 for 87) with 11 homers, 23 RBIs and 24 runs in 23 games this month.

"Really my approach is to swing at strikes, and just making sure that my posture and everything else is lined up," Ohtani said through a translator.

Ohtani's latest tear has him contemplating another try at the Derby on July 15 as part of the All-Star festivities at Globe Life Field in Texas. He last participated in 2021

in Denver, when he lost to Juan Soto in a memorable first-round showdown.

Asked by Japanese reporters about the Derby following Los Angeles' 4-3 victory

at Chicago on Tuesday night, Ohtani expressed interest in the marquee event, but said he had to speak with the team about the possibility. A day later,

he reiterated his thoughts. "It hasn't really changed much since yesterday," Ohtani said after Wednesday night's 4-0 win over the White Sox. "It's something I

have to talk to a lot of people about and make a decision."

Ohtani, who turns 30 on July 5, is in his first season with the Dodgers after agreeing to a \$700 million, 10-year contract in December. He isn't going to pitch this year after he had major elbow surgery in September during his final season with the Angels something that assuredly will come up during Derby discussions with his new team.

"The one side of it, for him to be in the Home Run Derby, it's great for baseball, clearly," manager Dave Roberts said. "The other side of it, on the manager of the Dodgers side of it, you're trying to be more cautious and appreciating the fact that there's a lot more swings, higher intensity, you know, going through the rehab process with his elbow." □



Los Angeles Dodgers designated hitter Shohei Ohtani watches his home run against the Chicago White Sox during the first inning of a baseball game aWednesday, June 26, 2024, in Chicago.

Associated Press